

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T USNATO 1592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: U.S.-EC CONSULTATIONS

1. IN ABSENCE OF SYG LUNS, HIS CHEF DU CABINET, PAUL VANCAMPEN, CALLED ON RUMSFELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 22 TO EXPRESS MISGIVINGS ABOUT A REPORT CONCERNING GERMAN THINKING ON A NEW MECHANISM FOR U.S.-NINE CONSULTATIONS. VAN CAMPEN SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT SCHEEL WAS WORKING ON A PLAN WHEREBY SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD MEET WITH THE NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE NINE. SAYING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR LUNS, HAVING DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM MANY TIMES VANCAMPEN SAID THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD CAUSE SEVERE PROBLEMS FOR THE ALLIANCE. IN THE FIRST PLACE IT WOULD BE RESENTED BY THE FLANK COUNTRIES. SECOND, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE A DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AS BETWEEN NATO AND THE EC. FINALLY, OF COURSE, THERE WAS A MECHANISM AT HAND WHICH COULD BE USED FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS, NAMELY NATO WITH ITS CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY.

2. RUMSFELD SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS PARTICULAR APPROACH BUT WONDERED FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSION IF IT WAS CONCEIVABLE
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THAT SCHEEL MIGHT BE THINKING

OF SUCH A MECHANISM FOR NON-NATO QUESTIONS. VAN CAMPEN REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT ONE COULD DRAW A LINE BETWEEN WHAT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR NATO AND WHAT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR

U.S.-NINE POLITICAL CONSULTATION. IF A LINE WERE DRAWN, IN VANCAMPEN'S VIEW, IT WOULD GRADUALLY MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF ENCOMPASSING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF U.S.-NINE CONSULTATIONS MANY OR MOST OF THOSE SUBJECTS THAT NATO CUSTOMARILY DEALT WITH BECAUSE THE NINE WERE STEADILY EXPANDING THEIR CONSULTATIONS. AS THE CUSTODIAN OF NATO INSTITUTIONS AND OF NATO CONSULTATIONS THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT APPROACHES OF THIS KIND. IT WAS BAD ENOUGH, VAN CAMPEN SAID, THAT THE NINE CONSULTED ON MATTERS AFFECTING NATO BUT IF THE U.S., IN EFFECT, JOINED THE NINE THE PROBLEM WOULD BE AGGRAVATED.

3. AGAIN SAYING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING LUNS' VIEWS, VANCAMPEN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A PITY TO SOLVE ONE PROBLEM ONLY TO PUT ANOTHER, POSSIBLY MORE SSRIOUS PROBLEM IN ITS PLACE. CONCLUDING, VANCAMPEN SAID THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS IDEA, IN VIEW OF THE DAMAGING EFFECT IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE ON NATO CONSULTATIONS. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE SECRETARY BE INFORMED OF THIS POINT OF VIEW PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN BONN.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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